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EXAMINER				
MAZUMDAR, SONYA				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/520,002

Applicant(s)

WADE, RICHARD

Examiner

SONYA MAZUMDAR

Art Unit

1791

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2008.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-15 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-15 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-893)
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/7/2008

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on July 7, 2008 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. Cancellation of claims 3 and 4 has been acknowledged.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's amendments, see page 3 in remarks filed July 7, 2008, with respect to claim 6, have been fully considered, and the rejection under 112, 2nd paragraph has been withdrawn.

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, and 5 through 15 have been considered but, in light of amendments, are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

5. Applicant's arguments, see pages 6 through 9 of the remarks, with respect to the rejections of claims 1, 2, and 5 through 15 under 35 USC 103(a) have been fully considered and the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, new grounds of rejection are made in view of Boreali (US 5,573,621) and Bekker-Madsen (US 5,112,427).

With respect to the argument regarding the shape and dimensions of labels, the claims do not disclose any limitations with respect to these properties and therefore, are not considered, although Boreali does teach providing labels of different shapes (column 3, lines 52-55).

Furthermore, although Boreali focuses on one section of a labeling apparatus (Figures 4 and 5), Boreali still teaches every claimed method limitation, with the exception of moving each extracted label directly onto a product container.

Information Disclosure Statement

6. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on July 7, 2008 was filed after the mailing date of the Office action on January 3, 2008. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Double Patenting

7. Applicant is advised that should claim 7 be found allowable, claims 13 through 15 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k). An intended use of the claimed coils does not distinguish itself from each other.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

8. Claims 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 11 and 14 are dependent off of cancelled claim 3, therefore it is unclear as to what is being disclosed in these claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
10. Claims 1, 2, 6, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boreali (US 5,573,621) in view of Bekker-Madsen (US 5,112,427)

Boreali teaches a method of separating linerless, adhesive labels on a single layer label matrix web (17), where labels (11) are disposed at spaced intervals, and the label boundaries are defined in the web by lines of cutting passing through the web

leaving the defined label connected to the remainder of the web by catch points. To remove the labels, the web is fed around a guide member (22) which causes the leading edge of each label to protrude out of the plane of the web and the protruding edge forms a means whereby the remainder of the label can be extracted from the web by breaking the catch points (column 3, column 4, lines 12-24; Figures 4 and 5).

Although Boreali teach passing the labels onward in a first direction (18), there is no specific teaching of placing the detached labels directly onto the surface of a product container. Bekker-Madsen teaches a method of applying adhesive labels (8) to products (13) directly after separating the labels from a backing material (9) (column 2, lines 53-65; column 3, lines 7-14; Figure 1).

Furthermore, claim 1 discloses using an applicator of "the same function and operation as the conventional beak of conventional application machinery" (lines 5 and 6). Thus, it would have been obvious to have the adhesive surfaces of the labels on a single web contact and adhere to the product, to avoid extra costs of a separate backing material (Bekker-Madsen: column 1, lines 30-53; Figure 1).

With respect to claim 2, Boreali in view of Bekker-Madsen teach leading edges of labels to be sufficiently devoid of holding points to ensure that it will reliably protrude from a matrix web (17) when it passes around the guide (22) (Boreali: Figure 5; Bekker-Madsen: column 1, line 57 – column 2, line 3).

With respect to claim 6, Boreali in view of Bekker-Madsen teaches labels with a first surface, opposite the adhesive surface, to act as a release material (Boreali: column 3, lines 44-51).

With respect to claim 8, Boreali in view of Bekker-Madsen teaches applying labels which are self-adhesive (Boreali: abstract; Bekker-Madsen: column 3, lines 7-14).

11. Claims 5, 10, 11, and 12 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boreali in view of Bekker-Madsen as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of Jeffries (US 3,880,692).

The teachings of claims 1 and 2 are as described above.

Although Boreali in view of Bekker-Madsen teach labels to have an adhesive surface (Boreali: abstract), there is no specific teaching of applying adhesive to labels on a single-layer web. However, Jeffries teach applying adhesive to a single layer-web of labels, in which the labels are further detached from the web (column 6, lines 6-52; Figures 5, 6, and 7). Thus, it would have been obvious to apply adhesive to labels before being detached from a web to prevent adhesive accumulation in the apparatus (abstract).

12. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boreali in view of Bekker-Madsen, as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of West et al. (US 5,275,678)

The teachings of claim 2 are as described above.

Boreali in view of Bekker-Madsen does not teach a water application station to wet adhesive on a label prior to application product containers. However, West et al. teach applying water via a water application means (17) to labels (15) with adhesive glue strips (20) prior to applying the labels onto containers (18) (column 5, lines 66 – column 6, line 5; Figures 1 and 2). It would have been obvious to apply water onto an

adhesive portion of the label as West et al. taught and would have been motivated to do so to prevent adhesive accumulation in an apparatus and residue on a container's surface (column 4, lines 51-60).

13. Claims 7, 13, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bekker-Madsen in view Osaka (US 6,030,482).

Bekker-Madsen teach self-adhesive labels (8) on a single web (2) to be applied to products (13), where the labels are spaced out on the web and the labels are defined in a web by punching sections (44, 45, 46, 47) are bridges (73, 74, 75, and 76) (column 4, lines 44-53; Figures 8 through 13).

Bekker-Madsen does not teach providing labels with silicon applied to a first surface of a label to act as a release material. However, Osaka teaches it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to apply a silicone release agent (18) over a printed layer (20) on a label, in a case where the label web is rolled up and surfaces do not stick to each other (column 2, lines 33-38; column 10, lines 43-47; Figure 1b).

"Even though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." *In re Thorpe*, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985)

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SONYA MAZUMDAR whose telephone number is (571)272-6019. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Philip Tucker can be reached on (571) 272-1095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SM

/Philip C Tucker/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1791